

## BOOK REVIEW

JUDY BARRETT. 2009. **What Can I Do With My Herbs? How to Grow, Use & Enjoy These Versatile Plants.** (ISBN 978-1-60344-092-9, flexbound with flaps). Texas A&M University Press, John H. Lindsey Building, 4354 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843-4354, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.tamu.edu/upress, 1-800-826-8911). \$19.95, 134 pp., 40 color paintings, index, 6 3/8" × 8 3/4".

Forty different herbs are celebrated and explored in this informative and easy-to-read book. The chapters are broken up into sections headed by active suggestions, most commonly "Learn about it," "Grow it," "Deter with it," "Soothe with it," "Eat it," and "Dry it".

The sections give basic information related to each suggestion, and the reader gets a well-rounded idea of each herb in about two to four pages. The author injects some humorous and interesting tidbits throughout the book, handily spicing up the otherwise general information about growing and using herbs. For example, the chapter on Horseradish has a section entitled "Get pretty with it", which describes using this herb to create a clarifying skin lotion. Catnip, of course, has a section to "Thrill cats with it." Geraniums, the author relays, add bulk, fiber, and scent in paper-making. A couple of the chapters also contain one or more caution statements warning against such dangers as ingestion or skin contact related to that particular herb.

While the information in this book may be nothing new to herbal experts, it is a great overview for the amateur looking to increase and utilize the home herb garden.—*Tracie Harris, Volunteer, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.*